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TO ADAMS/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER 12, 1974

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

I RAISED WITH THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING YOUR THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO MAKE THE VLADIVOSTOK TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT WEEK WHEN YOU RETURN, IN VIEW OF THE LEAKS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HIS INCLINATION WAS TO STICK WITH THE ORIGINAL IDEA -- THAT IS, FOR YOU TO RETURN FROM YOUR MOSCOW TRIP, MEET WITH HIM AND THEN MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. HE DID NOT SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE LEAKS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED MADE MUCH DIFFERENCE.

I DID NOT OFFER ANY VIEWS OF MY OWN TO THE PRESIDENT, BUT I BELIEVE, AS DOES LARRY, THAT THERE IS MERIT IN WAITING UNTIL AFTER YOUR MOSCOW VISIT. AN ANNOUNCEMENT NOW INEVITABLY CHANGES THE PERCEPTION BOTH OF YOUR TRIP AND OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING. IT IS TRUE THAT WE CAN EASILY MAKE A VALID CASE THAT THE PRESIDENT OUGHT TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV, QUITE APART FROM ANY SUBSTANTIVE REASONS FOR THEM TO GET TOGETHER. MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWING YOUR TRIP, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO ME TO PRESERVE A GREATER SENSE OF SIGNIFICANCE BOTH FOR YOUR VISIT AND THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING, AND AS WELL INDICATES AN ORDERLY PROGRESSION OF EVENTS BASED ON DEVELOPMENTS RATHER

THAN ON

A PRE-SET SCHEDULE REGARDLESS OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW.

I WILL AWAIT YOUR FURTHER VIEWS, BUT IN THE MEANTIME WILL BE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS NEXT WEEK. I WILL SEND YOU SHORTLY FOR YOUR APPROVAL DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENTS BOTH FOR THE SOVIET AND FOR THE CHINESE TRIPS.

BT

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

State Dept. review completed

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